

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification, as follows:

Page 5, lines 20-28, please amend the paragraph, as follows:

In more detail, it is preferred for the pulp fibers to have an average length of 0.8 to 2.0 mm, particularly 0.9 to 1.8 mm, especially 1.0 to 1.5 mm. If the average fiber length is less than 0.8 mm, cracks tend to develop on the surface of the molded article during papermaking or drying, or the molded article tends to have poor mechanical properties such as impact strength. If the average fiber length exceeds 2.0 mm, the pulp deposited body formed by papermaking tends to have unevenness of thickness only to provide a molded article with poor surface smoothness. The term "average fiber length" as used herein is a value obtained by measuring a frequency distribution of pulp fiber length and calculating [an arithmetic mean] a length-weighted fiber length from the distribution.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 7 and 9, as follows:

7. (Amended) The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article [has a thickness of 0.1 mm or greater and] has a corner whose thickness is greater than the thickness of other portions of said article.

9. (Amended) The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article further has a plastic layer on the outer and/or the inner surfaces thereof by vacuum forming or

pressure forming, and said plastic layer is obtainable by laminating a plastic film on said
molded article while said molded article is heated to a predetermined temperature, followed
by gradual cooling.